



**Board Chair:**  
York Glover

**Executive Director:**  
Betty Washington

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**Total children in county under  
age 6: 12,336**

**Total Children in county  
under 6 living in poverty %:  
16.3 %**

**Beaufort County Highlights**

- PAT #'s served
  - 47 adults 57 children
  - 511 home visits
- Reading is Fundamental
  - 4000 children
  - 13, 107 books given
- Childcare Facilities: 8
  - 15 classrooms
  - 501 children
- DSS Certified Workshop
  - 106 workshops
  - 3,302 hours awarded
- Completed ECD 101
  - 29 Childcare Providers
  - 2 Directors

# Beaufort County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Our Partnership Board and staff express many thanks to former Executive Director; Mrs. Dorothy J. Davis, we are appreciative of her leadership over the last several years and are grateful for the guidance given to improving the quality of care children received in Beaufort County.

Beaufort County First Steps continues to make considerable investments in early childhood education. With the rising demand for quality child care we are determined to deliver integrated, coordinated, and high-quality services. Our goal is to continue to improve program quality ensuring that our children enter school ready to learn and have more positive educational outcomes. Through the delivery of certified trainings and technical assistance we continue to evaluate early care and education programs so they may achieve the highest possible quality and performance. In addition, our Parent Education program is designed to strengthen families by providing parents with the support and education needed to help them gain the knowledge and skills essential for raising their children and preparing them for school success.

We believe children are served best when families, schools, and communities work together as partners through close and ongoing collaboration. As we strive to meet the needs of our children we thank all of you for your continued support, volunteer time, resources, and expertise. A special thank you to our childcare professionals and our families, we applaud you, the work you do has not gone unnoticed.

*"Young children represent hope for our future. Early Childhood Education builds a better future for them."*

In Service for Children,

*Betty Washington*  
Executive Director  
Beaufort County First Steps



## First Steps to School Readiness Strategy Areas

*The First Steps initiative approaches children's school readiness needs in five ways:*

**Family Strengthening:** A parent is a child's first and best teacher. First Steps works to help parents become the best parents they can be. First Steps also helps parents further their own education.

**Healthy Start:** Children's development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health in the earliest years. First Steps works to help families understand children's health needs through education and screenings while also working to help them access needed health services.

**Quality Child Care:** Quality child care provides immediate and long-term learning benefits for children. First Steps works to expand the availability of quality childcare to families and to enhance the level of quality in existing childcare environments.

**Early Education:** Research shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool classes are more likely to start school ready to learn, as well as be more successful later in life. First Steps works to expand high-quality 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten opportunities in public and private settings.

**School Transition:** The transition into kindergarten is a critical time that sets the tone for children's perspectives about the school years, as well their parents' perspectives. Making a strong initial connection between school and home -- and supporting both parents and students during this transition time -- has been shown to impact students' later school success and parents' later involvement during the school years.



## **2008-09 County Partnership Programs by Strategy**

### **FAMILY STRENGTHENING.**

**Parents as Teachers (P.A.T.)** a parent education and family support program serving families throughout pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten. Families received a minimum of two home visits per month, with additional visits as family needs dictated. P.A.T. home visits provide parents the opportunity to receive the knowledge and skills,

necessary to promote school readiness, healthy development and long-term success of preschool-aged children.



#### **Program results:**

- 44 families and 57 children were served
- 511 home visits were conducted
- 97% of families



served were identified as possessing one or more of the State Board of Trustees' risk factors.

#### **Assessments:**

Parent assessments are conducted using Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS). Parent educators utilize this tool to observe and assess parenting skills. KIPS assesses the quality of 12 parenting behaviors that research has linked to children's healthy development. The 12 items are set on 5-point scales with the behavioral anchors at the odd points and 5 as the most favorable rating.

- 16 families were assessed pre and post scores showed a 0.51% increase on the KIPS assessment.

Adult-Child Interactive Reading Inventory (ACIRI) is an interactive reading inventory for parents and children ages 2.5 years to 5 years old. It is a literacy-specific evaluation based on observation of a parent and child reading together and is scored on a 3-point scale using pre and post scores. It evaluates the interactions between parents and children relating to literacy acquisition.

- 9 families were observed using pre and post scores utilizing the ACIRI assessment tool
- The average score increase for adults; 0.38% and average post score increase for children was 0.28%.

- 52 screenings were conducted including developmental, dental, hearing, and vision
- 186 referrals were made to community resources
- 6 car seats were provided for enrolled families
- 813 books were given to families during home visits and during Reading is Fundamental literacy events
- 6 families received New Parent Baby Kits
- 44 families received Parent/Child Literacy Activity Bags
- Parents attended the Beaufort County First Steps Mommy & Me Center and took advantage of the Book and Toy Lending Library

### **Parent Group Meetings:**



- 12 Parent group meetings were provided; meetings provided opportunities to share information about parenting issues and child development. Parents supported each other, observed their children and practiced parenting skills. Guest speaker presentations focused on Early Childhood Development, Nutrition, Health, Home Safety, Family Literacy, Prenatal Care and Dental Care; provided by the Ronald McDonald Mobile Unit which provided free dental screenings and fluoride treatments for parents and children.

### **Parent Satisfaction Survey**

- 100% of families who responded (92% return rate) to PAT Parent Evaluation said they had personal home visits and found them to be very helpful.
- 100% of parents who responded to PAT Parent Evaluation said they were very satisfied with the PAT program and would recommend it to a friend.
- 100% of parents responding to the PAT Evaluation had child screenings and found the information helpful to their understanding of their child's growth.



## **QUALITY CHILD CARE**

### **Child Care Quality Enhancement Partnership goal-**

Assist participating child care providers and directors by offering intense bi-weekly TA, provide funding targeted for upgrades to meet DSS and ABC-Enhanced requirements, and to further enhance the learning environment for our young children.



### **Program results:**

- 8 Childcare Facilities serving 501 children participated in FY 09 as partners; all received some continued funding to help increase the quality of care for children.
  - 15 classrooms were assessed using ERS; 15 classrooms received both pre & post assessments.



- 13 of 15 classrooms receiving TA increased ERS scores by an average of 1.10
- BCFS staff delivered 530 hours of technical assistance as a means of planning for improvement within the 8 continued facilities; concentration on 15 classrooms
  - 237 TA visits

- (T.E.A.C.H.) 29 partner childcare providers; 2 Directors received scholarships and completed ECD 101 to earn their SC Early Childhood Credential.
- The Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program in its 7<sup>th</sup> year held 78 literacy events for at-risk children and their families through 26 partner distribution sites in Beaufort County.
  - 13,107 books were distributed into the homes of approximately 4,000 children
- 11 students attending classes at Technical College of Lowcountry along with their instructor visited model classroom set-up at BCFS office to do an ERS assessment
- The literacy program (Mommy and Me) in its 6<sup>th</sup> year provided a total of 26 group sessions for community stay-at-home mothers and their children
  - North of the Broad served 7 families and 13 children
  - South of the Broad served 4 families and 6 children
  - 14 resource books lent
  - 57 books given to children
- The First Steps Lending Library in its 6th year of operation lent 85 resource books and 73 toys along with other literacy materials to childcare providers and parents.

## **CHILD CARE QUALITY TRAINING**

**Child Care Quality Training-** Provide continuous staff development training and TA to assist providers in meeting DSS training requirements, increasing the knowledge of child care providers and improving the quality of programs offered in childcare facilities.

### **Program results:**

- 19 certified workshops were held; 559 child care providers and directors awarded 1,147 DSS training hours
- 15 training sessions of Infant/Child w/AED, First Aid, CPR, and Blood-borne Pathogens was taught by FS staff awarding 126 child care providers Red Cross Certification.
- 87 workshop sessions were offered at the Fourth Annual TEAM Lowcountry Conference; a two-day event serving childcare providers/directors in Region 1
  - 173 providers attended day 1; awarded 865 training hours
  - 262 providers attended day 2; awarded 1,290 training hours
- 902 books were given during training sessions



## **SCHOOL TRANSITION**

**Countdown to Kindergarten-** creates awareness and knowledge for parents about the importance of home activities relating to literacy and hands-on learning leading up to kindergarten. This CDTK program instills confidence in children who are about to enter kindergarten and the world of school, and also teaches parents how to advocate for their children within the educational system.

### **Program results:**

- 20 children served
- 17 received all 6 home visits
- 9 children assigned to Home Visitor as their K teacher



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<b><u>Expenditures By Funding Source</u></b>	
State Appropriation ( <i>Fund 10</i> )	\$ 295,982
State Appropriation Carry Fwd ( <i>Fund 11</i> )	\$ 22,739
E.I.A. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 55</i> )	\$ 25,435
E.I.A. Appropriation Carry Fwd ( <i>Fund 56</i> )	\$ 3,355
Lottery Appropriation ( <i>Fund 35</i> )	\$ 51,917
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 60</i> )	\$ 413
State Private ( <i>Fund 15</i> )	\$ 2,662
Local Private ( <i>Fund 20</i> )	\$ 8,525
Federal ( <i>Fund 30</i> )	\$ 54,361
In-Kind ( <i>Fund 25</i> )	\$ 44,780
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 510,169</b>

<b><u>Expenditures by Program / Strategy Name</u></b>	
Administrative Functions	\$ 31,333
Programmatic Functions	\$ 84,323
Parents As Teachers	\$121,023
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$201,028
Child Care Training & Professional Development	\$ 70,389
Count Down to Kindergarten	\$ 1,875
Substitute Payments	\$ 198
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$510,169</b>

## NOTABLE DONORS

<b><i>DONOR'S NAME</i></b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Sam's Club (TEAM Lowcountry)	\$1,000
Lakeshore (TEAM Lowcountry)	\$ 250
Palmetto Electric (TEAM Lowcountry)	\$ 100
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,350</b>

***Local Match Percentage for FY 2009: 31.7 %***

## **COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Category</b>
<b>Gloria Settles</b>	Pre-K –Primary Educators
<b>Veronica Williams</b>	Pre-K –Primary Educators
<b>Kathy Carter</b> ( Board Vice Chair)	Family Ed., Training & Support Provider
<b>Jimmy N. Mackey</b>	Family Ed., Training & Support Provider
<b>Janet Smith</b>	Child Care, EC Dev./Education Provider
<b>York Glover</b> (Board Chair)	Health Care Provider
<b>Frances Pringle Cherry</b>	Health Care Provider
<b>Leroy Gillard</b> (Board Treasurer)	Transportation Provider
<b>Kay Newsome</b>	Non-Profit Organization
<b>Rosalind Dixon</b>	Faith Community
<b>Dr. Cynthia Gregory-Small</b>	Business Community
<b>Aylea Smith</b>	Parents of Pre-School Children
<b>Julia Burnes</b>	Early Childhood Education
<b>Sara Reynolds</b>	Early Childhood Education
<b>Ronald Manyin</b>	Early Childhood Education
<b>Keith Davis</b>	Department of Social Services
<b>Nan Krueger</b>	Dept. of Health & Environmental Control
<b>Myrna Bolden</b>	County Head Start
<b>Wendy Allen</b> (Board Secretary)	County Library
	Legislative Appointee

During FY09 BCFS Partnership Board Members volunteered more than 76 hours, including attendance at Childcare Appreciation training/luncheon held for partnering childcare providers and directors. Board Chair participated in December Parent Group meeting.



## *SUCCESS STORIES*

### *Quality Enhancement*

- *Dear Dorothy, Betty and Vanessa, What a wonderful privilege we have by participating in The First Steps Child Care Quality Enhancement Initiative. We are grateful; you all continue to do a wonderful job changing the quality of childcare for our children.*

*Fondly,*

*Jan Smith, Executive Director Children's Center*

- *Toddler University has had the privilege to partner with First Steps of Beaufort County for almost eight years. They have been a driving force in the training of our staff as well as the bearer of many much needed and critical supplies. We have seen some new faces over the years but can always rely on Betty Washington and her staff. Our new mentor this year is Connie Spink. She has already come in and made a very positive impression on our staff and the children. We do what we do to create opportunities for children of all ages and economic backgrounds. Without First Steps it would have been next to impossible for me as a small business owner to be able to provide these opportunities to our children at such a critical learning time in their development. I can't thank the First Steps staff of Beaufort County enough for all their wonderful support over the years. I hope to continue working with them for many more years to come.*

*Respectfully Yours,*

*Lesly K Crick; Director, Toddler University Learning Center*

- *Betty,*

*I'd like to express my thanks to your agency for the work you do in the community to help child care centers help children get ready for school. As a faith based center, I have been very impressed by all of your staff and the training events you sponsor and the fact that you are so willing to work with the faith based community.*

*We were fortunate to work with your agency August 2002 through August 2004 to help bring our center "up to par" with some new furniture, cribs and educational materials. Your staff also came in and evaluated each class using the ECERS evaluation materials. It was very helpful to see where we needed to improve to help our children the most.*

*Because it has been several years since the last evaluation, we are looking forward to partnering with you again to help us see where we need to place more emphasis in our program. We are excited to be working with you and Mrs. Connie Spink this year. We look forward to a great year of evaluation, learning and change to make our center the best it can be for this community.*

*It is also exciting that you will be using our facility to sponsor some of your training events. Again thank you for all you do for children in our community. Together we will make a difference.*

*In His service,*

*Debbie Marcil; Director, Child Enrichment Center*

- *It has been 2 years of outstanding service that Beaufort County First Steps has provided to Rise & Shine CDC. We have gained a wealth of knowledge pertaining to Developmentally Appropriate Practices for young children. At Rise & Shine CDC our children, families and employees have benefited tremendously from the guided practice, workshops, training classes, and recommendations that you have equipped us with. Your guidance has contributed to our awesome reputation for being a place where children “Rise & Shine”.*

*First Steps has instilled the following practices in my employees. We are here to guide our children by redirecting their activities. You cannot spoil them, and we must be flexible and encouraging with children in everything they do. Read! Read! Read! Look for teachable moments and continue to grow through education. Childcare is a rewarding profession because we are shaping the lives of children. Thus, we have gained the trust of children and parents to provide quality childcare at all times.*

*Words cannot adequately express the respect that I have for First Steps. I appreciate the trained professionals that come into my center in such a non-threatening way to help perfect our craft. You are absolutely the best!*

*Sincerely,  
Lenora A. Henry; Owner/Director*

### ***Parent as Teachers***

- *The parenting program is most helpful to me and my child by communicating in many ways. I don't think anything should change about this program. I have enjoyed my Parent Educator, she has taught me ways to communicate and play with my child.*

*Shandela Simmons*

- *I have learned that if you keep playing games and reading that my child will learn much better and want to do more. The parenting program is great. Everyone that works at First Steps is just sweet and kind. I love them all.*

*Claudia S. Mitchell*

- *The really enjoy the home visits; it creates a very comfortable environment for me and the baby. The parenting handouts are great resources, I love them. Keep up the good work! I love First Steps! I have truly been blessed to have you come to my home and help me become a better mother. God bless you, and keep you always!*

*Love,  
Greta, Eloy, and Evander Lopez*

- *My parent educator helped me understand everything about my pregnancy and now with my new baby here, I have learned how important is to read and to play with him. I love First Steps and so does my baby!*

*Melissa Smith*

- *The home visits are so much fun. I've learn a lot about my baby's health and development and the books are great. First Steps has been with me every step of the way. Thank you.*

*Shanta Jenkins*

- *The program has taught me things that I didn't know before about my child's development.*

*Sade C. Green*

- *The parenting program has given me insightful information regarding my child's development. All of the material given by Ms. Brown has given me a better understanding of the process of becoming an effective parent. In addition to the useful information provided by Ms. Brown, I have found the parenting group meetings most helpful because I am able to interact with other parents and the topics are interesting and very useful. I enjoy the level of comfort and the fact of being treated like a person.*

*Christina Jefferson*

- *The parenting program has provided me with helpful hints I need on how to talk about certain subjects with my child.*

*Floretta Williams*

### ***Comments from FY 09 TEAM Lowcountry Conference***

- *Dear Betty and TEAM Lowcountry Committee, What a wonderful conference! I give you a 10! Thank you for all your hard work, I enjoyed myself. I have talked to my students all week and they all learned a lot and enjoyed the Keynote Speaker. I travel to conferences all over the state and this one is, by far, the best.*

*Warmest Regards,  
Robbie Hall  
T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Counselor*

- *Betty, What an outstanding Early Childhood Conference! Please extend my congratulations for a job well done to your entire TEAM! Each of you exemplified the professionalism – the high standards – that we are all striving to achieve in early education. You team did it and they did it well. Again – thank you for a great two days of networking – learning – revitalizing.*

*Best Regards,  
Jessica Flowers*

*The SC General Assembly created in 1999 the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Initiative as a “comprehensive, results-oriented initiative for improving early childhood development by providing, through county partnerships, public and private funds and support for high quality early childhood development and education services for children by providing support for their families’ efforts toward enabling their children to reach school ready to learn”...here’s what happened next:*

First Steps Strategy Areas	Notable Moments
Family Strengthening	<p><b>FY-02-</b> 48 families served; 67 children; 105 home visits conducted; 3,086 books distributed through Reach Out and Read program; 2,000 books distributed to pediatricians and community hospitals; 93 referrals to outside agencies made by Family learning Connections staff (PAT)</p> <p><b>FY03-</b> 52 families served 25 of which were non English speaking; 76 children; 921 home visits conducted; participated in CHIPS for Children Mobile Unit (provided literacy materials, medical information and equipment)</p> <p><b>FY03-</b> First fundraiser; netted \$1,780.26 funds for emergency family use.</p> <p><b>FY04-</b> 49 families served; 47 children; 297 home visits conducted</p> <p><b>FY05-</b> 58 families served 17 non English speaking all enrolled in ESOL classes; 65 children; 316 home visits conducted; 10 parents enrolled in GED classes; 2 in high school classes and 4 in college classes; 3 parents completed GED</p> <p>Angela Stewart-Roberts, parent served under PAT program 2002-2005 received her Bachelor’s of Science in Physics from Benedict College on May 18, 2004; began teaching at Wade Hampton High, later taught at Battery Creek High School and is presently teaching at Whale Branch Middle School.</p> <p><i>Pictured: left to right; Angela Stewart-Roberts with Parent Educator; Betty Ford</i></p> <p><b>FY06-</b> 54 families served; 56 children; 17 families enrolled in ESOL classes; 380 home visits conducted; 9 parents enrolled in GED classes</p> <p><b>FY07-</b> 46 families served; 49 children; 236 home visits conducted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set-up Mommy &amp; Me classroom on Hilton Head to serve the Latino community; more than 20 families participated in the program.</li> </ul> <p><b>FY08-</b> 44 families served; 55 children; 361 home visits conducted; parents assessed using KIPS and ACIRI</p>



Quality Child Care	<p><b>FY02-</b> 52 childcare programs; 54 classrooms serving 2,191 children; 8 programs increased DSS licensing status; 519 TA hours provided; 317.5 mentoring hours; 38 providers completed ECD 101</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90 slots were created within partner childcare facilities moving from group to center status</li> <li>• 10 slots created in NAEYC accredited facility to serve at-risk children</li> <li>• Awarded 5 Latino children with scholarships to attend NAEYC accredited First Presbyterian Day School</li> <li>• 5,994 age-appropriate books were distributed to families and childcare providers</li> </ul> <p><b>FY03-</b> 51 childcare programs; 141 classrooms; 1,610 children; 7 programs achieved 5 on ERS rating scale; 415 hours TA provided; 385 mentoring hours provided; 1 center achieved NAEYC Accreditation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 childcare providers attended intense three-day Creative Curriculum workshop</li> <li>• Awarded 2 Latino children with scholarships to attend NAEYC accredited First Presbyterian Day</li> <li>• 5 start-up programs were funded</li> </ul> <p><b>FY04-</b> 44 childcare programs; 99 classrooms serving 1,441 children; all programs showed significant gains on ERS rating scales; 12 programs achieved goal of 5 or higher; 1 facility achieved licensing; 378 TA hours provided</p> <p><b>FY05-</b> 25 childcare programs; 32 classrooms serving 1,127 children; 6 achieved goal of 5 on ERS rating scale; 397 TA hours; 6 facilities became ABC Enhanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implemented Teacheread which is based on the highly effective Motherhead training model</li> </ul> <p><b>FY06-</b> 19 childcare programs; 34 classrooms serving 819 children; 7 programs achieved 5 or higher on ERS rating scale; 317 TA hours provided; 1 program became licensed</p> <p><b>FY07-</b> 18 childcare programs; 32 classrooms serving 790 children; 3 programs achieved goal of 5 on ERS rating scale; 276 TA hours provided; 1 program became ABC Enhanced</p> <p><b>FY08-</b> 8 childcare programs; 15 classrooms serving 523 children; 432 TA hours provided; 3 providers completed ECD101, 8 others enrolled</p>
Early Education	<p><b>FY08-</b> SC Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP); 1 student served at approved site, child lived in a plaintiff district</p>



School Transition Areas	In collaboration with the Beaufort County School District implemented Count Down to Kindergarten; 40 children served to date.
Non-Standard Strategy	<p><b>FY02- 2007-</b> Child Health Program; provided services in the area of health and safety education, community resources, car seat distributions (788) and training to parents residing in Beaufort County's most at-risk communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained 24 volunteer partners to teach child passenger safety seat installation.</li> </ul> <p><b>FY02-Present-</b> Kids Fest community event; provided books to children, more than 2,500 distributed to date</p> <p><b>FY03-Present-</b> Lending Library / Resource Center; 1,200 books, toys, resources materials lent to parent and childcare providers.</p> <p><b>FY03-FY08-</b> Directors Retreat; Childcare Directors from Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton and Colleton Counties gathered for a 2-day retreat at Palm Key Resort in Ridgeland. The event allowed Directors to network and gain training in Program Administration. <i>(Budget constraints prevent continuation)</i></p> <p><b>FY04-FY 09-</b>Mommy &amp; Me literacy program provided 187 group sessions for community stay-at-home moms and their children. Children had the opportunity to socialize with other children in the group, experience literacy activity and were able to take home a book to begin their own library.</p> <p><b>FY06-Present-</b> TEAM Lowcountry Early Childhood Conference, in collaboration with Allendale, Colleton, Jasper, &amp; Hampton Counties as well as other community agencies provided more than 331 workshops for regional childcare providers.</p> <p><b>FY07- Present-</b> Two NAEYC model sites were developed as a mentoring/training program; the first designed for individuals providing care for infants and toddlers, the second designed for individuals working with 3-5 year olds. This one-on-one approach produced measurable change in caregiver behavior and the quality of care that these caregivers provide. More than 30 childcare providers took advantage of the opportunity.</p> <p><b>FY08 &amp; FY09-</b> 15 Early Education students accompanied by their instructor from The Technical College of the Lowcountry visited BCFS model classroom to do ERS assessments.</p>

### **Other notable moments:**

- *A special “Certificate of Appreciation” was presented to the First Steps Quality Enhancement Program staff at Director’s retreat held at Palm Key retreat Center on June 13, 2003. It was presented by Rose Kitty, Owner of Rose’s Day Care Center in Bluffton, SC in appreciation of the financial assistance that First Steps provided to Childcare Providers.*
- *United Way of Beaufort recognized and presented a certificate of appreciation to Beaufort County First Steps for “Outstanding Contributions in Early Childhood” at the annual United Way luncheon for community partners on March 31, 2004.*
- *March 1, 2006, in a ceremonial bill signing, Governor Mark Sanford signed legislation that reauthorizes First Steps to School Readiness until 2013. The signing took place at Arthurtown Child Development Center in Columbia, where Governor Sanford was joined by special guest former Governor Jim Hodges and SC First Steps Director Susan DeVenny.*

### **Private Contributions**

***FY02-** Beaufort County First Steps received contribution of \$15,000 from Dr. & Mrs. Walter C. Meier. Funds were used for Born to Read Program, office renovations, equipment and supplies.*

***FY02-BCFS** received in-kind donation of \$5,000 from Jayne Davis.*

***FY 03-BCFS** received grant award of \$35,000 from the Hilton Head Island Foundation to hire bi-lingual Parent Educator for the Parents as Teachers program.*

***FY 03-**private donation of \$8,000 was presented to Beaufort County First Steps to help fund a training and resource center for childcare providers and parents. A local couple made the anonymous donation.*

***FY03 to Present** –Received federal grant for Reading is Fundamental (RIF); \$19,600 each year from FY03-FY09; total funding to date \$137,200; 672 literacy distribution events; 4,000 children served each year receiving more than 85,000 books to date.*

***FY06-Hilton Head Foundation;** 17,500 to help offset salary for bi-lingual Parent Educator*

***FY08-** Friends of Callawassie donated \$1,500 for expenses incurred TEAM Lowcountry Early Childhood Conference.*

***FY08-** Received a grant in amount of 1,986.83 from First Book Marketplace to help replenish books for lending library resource area.*

***FY09-** Received a grant in amount of 567 from First Book Marketplace to help replenish books for lending library resource area.*

*TEAM Lowcountry has had support through a number of other businesses/organizations including:*

*ABC Childcare Program  
Beaufort County Schools/Success by Six  
Beaufort-Jasper Head Start  
Carolina Ribs & Steakhouse  
Child Care Resource and Referral  
DSS Childcare Licensing  
Environments Early Learning  
Food Lion  
Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Hilton Head  
J.R. Wilson Construction  
Kaplan Early Learning*

*Kwalu Furniture, Ridgeland  
Outback Steakhouse  
Palmetto Electric  
Piggly Wiggly  
Publix Supermarket  
Ridgeland Baptist Childcare  
Ridgeland Baptist Church  
Sake House  
Traveling Trainer  
United Way*

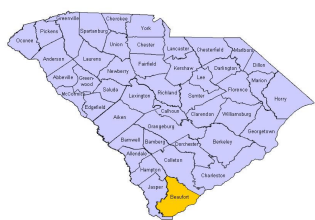
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## **WHY INVEST IN EARLY EDUCATION?**

- ❖ A child's experiences in the first three years greatly affect the rest of his or her life.
- ❖ The human brain develops more rapidly between birth and age five than during any other later period. This is a time of enormous social-emotional, physical, and cognitive growth.
- ❖ School readiness is a critical indicator of later school success. Children who receive quality early childhood education enter school ready to learn, have better social skills, fewer grade retentions, and higher high school graduation rates.
- ❖ Evidence suggests that early childhood interventions are much more effective than remedies that attempt to compensate later in life for early neglect. These early years provide a window of opportunity to "set either a sturdy or fragile stage for what follows."
- ❖ Nearly half of the kindergarten children in the U.S. face risk factors that could limit their development including: living in poverty; having a single parent; having a parent with less than a high school education; living in a family that does not speak English.
- ❖ Today's children are tomorrow's workers. Their ability to learn and develop future skills is being shaped by their early childhood experiences.

## **COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT**

In FY09, First Steps County Partnerships statewide made it a priority to become increasingly data-driven. County Partnerships successfully began using powerful new components of the First Steps data system, and County Partnerships also utilized data in new ways to drive their FY09 program plans. In addition to enhanced program data tracking, County Partnerships are also focusing on the best available data about children and families to best understand their communities' needs. At the end of FY08 and the beginning of FY09, County Partnerships began an extensive analysis of this data, including data about the risk factors known to impact children's potential school success, such as low birth weight, teen mothers, and families living in poverty. A county-level risk data report is included in the subsequent pages of this report.



# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

## Beaufort County

Total Children Under Six: 12,336

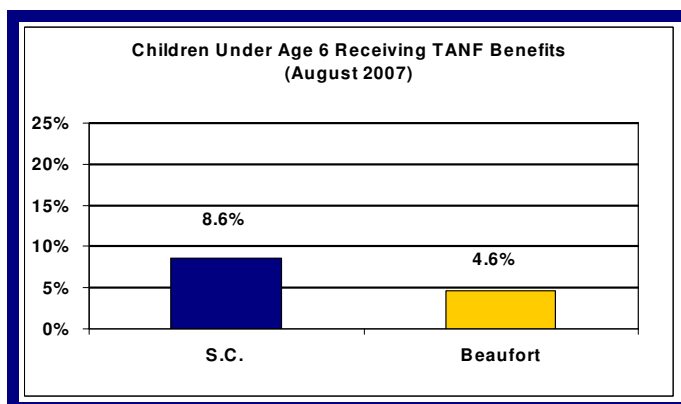
### CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4%

Beaufort County (2007): 4.6%

***Fast Fact:*** Roughly 1 in 22 Beaufort County children has an annual family income equivalent to \$10,325 (or less) for a family of four. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 45% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Children in deep poverty often face a wide variety of school readiness obstacles, ranging from inadequate prenatal care and nutrition to low maternal education.
- 567 of Beaufort County’s 12,336 children under age 6 received federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits during 2007, indicating a family income at or below 50% of the federal poverty definition.



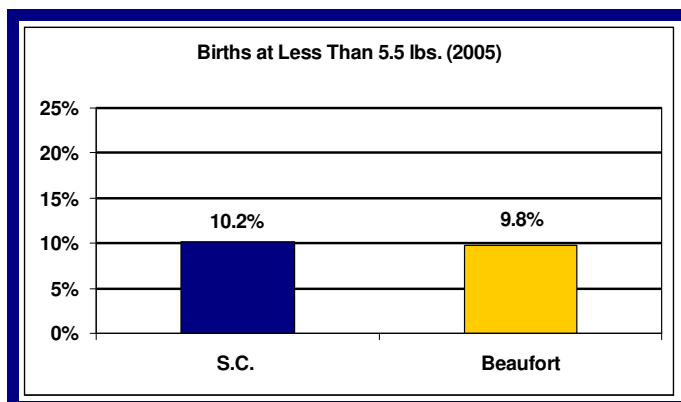
### CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

Beaufort County (2005): 9.8%

***Fast Fact:*** Roughly 1 in 10 Beaufort County children is born at a weight less than 5.5 lbs. A recent statewide analysis suggests that at least one-third of these children (36%-52% depending on weight category) will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Babies born at low weights are often prone to developmental delays associated with early academic failure.
- Many have received inadequate prenatal care and suffer from significant health complications.
- 220 of the 2,244 children born in Beaufort County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.





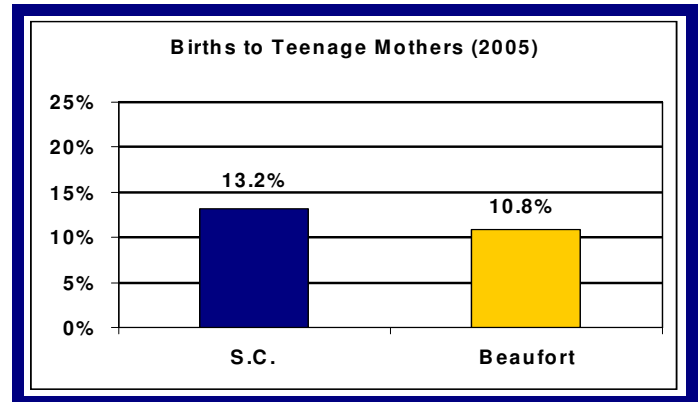
## **BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS**

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%

Beaufort County (2005): 10.8%

***Fast Fact: 1 in 10 Beaufort County births is to a mother under 20 years of age. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 43% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.***

- Teenage parents often lack the maturity and knowledge required to optimally fulfill important parental responsibilities, are less likely to advance their own educational attainment and often fail to advance beyond low-income status.
- 243 of the 2,244 children born in Beaufort County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



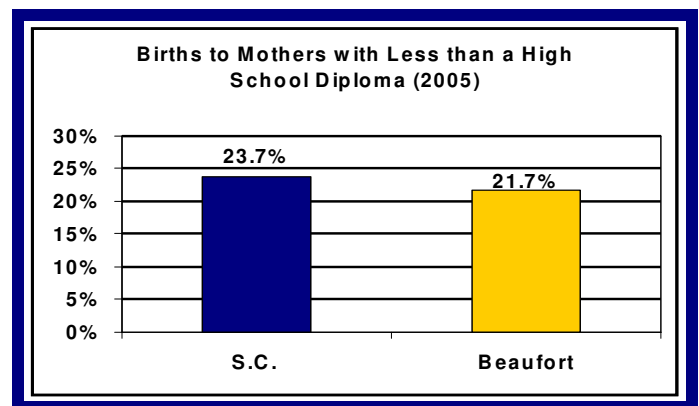
## **BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

Beaufort County (2005): 21.7%

***Fast Fact: 1 in 5 children in Beaufort County is born to a mother possessing less than a high school diploma. A recent statewide analysis suggests that roughly half (48%) of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.***

- Research suggests that a mother’s own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.
- 486 of the 2,244 children born in Beaufort County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.



All data provided by the SC Budget and Control Board’s Office of Research and Statistics